

Central Intelligence Agency

DDI- 03204X-86



Washington, D.C. 20505

8 JUL 1986

Colonel Thomas R. Stone, U. S. Army
Director, Strategic Studies Institute
U. S. Army War College
Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013-5050

Dear Colonel Stone:

Thank you for sending us a copy of Dr. Richard B. Remnek's study Soviet Strategic Military Interest in Africa in the 1980s. We have taken a look at the paper and in general found it quite close to our own assessment of the potential wartime role of Soviet military forces and facilities in Africa. We agree with Remnek that the role of these forces in a wider East-West conventional conflict is likely to be limited in view of the small size of the Soviet naval contingent, the vulnerability of African facilities to Western attack, the distance of these facilities from areas of core Soviet interest and commitment, and the reluctance of African states to get involved in an East-West conflict.

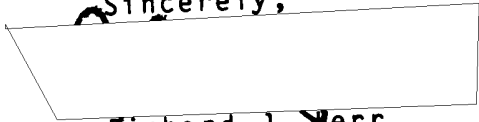
We also concur with the judgment that the Soviets are unlikely to construct "expensive support infrastructures"--i.e. large naval and air bases--in Africa in the near to medium term, due to the political and military vulnerability of such facilities in even the most loyal pro-Soviet states. We agree that Moscow would be more likely to carry out resource-related missions in Africa by trying to disrupt supplies of Nigerian oil or Zairean minerals at the source through sabotage, than to attempt to interdict ships carrying these resources with Soviet naval assets that would presumably be needed elsewhere.

Our criticisms of the paper are few and come in two areas:

- We see both the West Africa patrol and the Indian Ocean squadron as capable of performing a somewhat wider range of missions in behalf of Soviet interests, including fisheries protection, evacuation of Soviet citizens from local hotspots, and providing direct military support to Soviet allies facing domestic threats.
- The author may be a bit too sanguine in dismissing the possibility that East-West conventional conflict could break out in Africa. While unlikely in the near term, the fact that both sides do have significant interests, if not absolutely vital ones, in southern Africa raises the possibility of at least proxy conflict, with the attendant risks of superpower involvement. The military infrastructure the Soviets have developed in Angola, and to a lesser extent, in Mozambique, would likely be of significant advantage in any such conflict.

I appreciate your letting us have a look at the paper.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Kerr
Deputy Director for Intelligence

STAT

SUBJECT: Response to Colonel Stone's Request for Comments
on "Soviet Strategic Military Interests in Africa
in the 1980s"

SOVA/TWAD/AFLAME/[] (7 Jul 86)

STAT

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee
1 - DDI (for chrono)
1 - DDI Reg
2 - D/SOVA
1 - C/ES/CIB
1 - C/TWA
1 - C/TWA/AFLAME
1 - TWA Chrono

ACTION ASSIGNED

Date Due: 07 JUL 86 (Set by Requestor)

Item: 65 **Reference:** **Date Received:** 30 JUN 86

Nature of Problem:
PREPARE FOR DDI'S SIGNATURE A RESPONSE TO COL. THOMAS STONE'S REQUEST FOR
COMMENTS ON "SOVIET STRATEGIC MILITARY INTERESTS IN AFRICA IN THE 1980S."

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STAT

Comments:

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30 June 1986

NOTE TO: D/SOVA

[REDACTED]

STAT

Please prepare for the DDI's signature a response to the attached letter from Colonel Thomas Stone, Director, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College, requesting comments on a study entitled "Soviet Strategic Military Interests in Africa in the 1980s." Could we please have this by 7 July 1986.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

STAT

Attachment:
As stated

HAND CARRY

[REDACTED]

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY WAR COLLEGE
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PENNSYLVANIA 17013-5050

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

June 16, 1986

Executive Registry

86- 2643X

Strategic Studies Institute

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Dr. Gates:

Enclosed is your copy of Soviet Strategic Military Interests in Africa in the 1980s, an individual study initiated by the Strategic Studies Institute. The author, Dr. Richard B. Remnek, considers Africa's possible role in Soviet peacetime preparation for, and prosecution of, a general coalition war. Based on his examination, the author makes recommendations for the focus of U.S. concern in this area.

The views and conclusions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect an official position, policy or decision of the Strategic Studies Institute, the U.S. Army War College, or any other agency.

This study is published to stimulate thought, raise questions, and provoke alternate points of view. Your opinion and critique are valued resources which will assist the Strategic Studies Institute in its future endeavors. Therefore, I solicit your comments on Soviet Strategic Military Interests in Africa in the 1980s. Please forward your thoughts to me at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas R. Stone".

Thomas R. Stone
Colonel, U.S. Army
Director, Strategic Studies Institute

Enclosure

**STRATEGIC STUDIES INSTITUTE
US ARMY WAR COLLEGE
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PENNSYLVANIA 17013-5050**

1 MAY 1986

ACN 88005

**SOVIET STRATEGIC MILITARY INTERESTS IN AFRICA
IN THE 1980s**



Final Report

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